

## **ABSTRACT**

A generalized Layer-2 virtual private network arrangement and method is disclosed for layer-2 and/or layer-1 VPNs. The generalized Layer-2 VPN includes mechanisms which provide simplified provisioning and a degree of customer autonomy regarding establishing pseudo-wire connections without the assistance of the service provider across the service provider's network. The generalized Layer-2 VPN is particularly useful for overcoming the need for customers to be restricted to a particular transport or technology used within the provider network.